

BAC meeting #5: Thursday, February 8, 2024

Attending

- Eric Engstrom, BPS Deputy Director
- Julie Ocken, BPS Strategic Projects
- Harmonee Dashiell, BPS Equity Manager
- Kevin Block, BPS CPPW member
- Brandon Spencer-Hartle, BPS Protec17 member
- Nicole Kosina, BPS DCTU member
- Calvin Hoff, CIC member
- Mary-Rain O'Meara, Planning Commission Chair
- Megan Cummings, BPS Finance Manager

Not in attendance

- Megan Horst, PCEF Committee
- Juan Muro, Digital Inclusion Network

Budget Request Overview

The final requested budget is due next Friday. BPS has a 3-hour work session with the Community & Economic Development Service Area bureaus next Tuesday with Council. The directors have also been working on the updated Citywide org chart for the Service Area.

The Finance Team finished doing the balancing of the budget. There were no other developments that would have had to make further cuts since our last BAC meeting. So we coped with the 5% reduction via a combination of moving some staff to bureau-wide overhead model and moved some PCEF money into the climate policy group. PCEF has added 9 new positions that is part of the budget request as well. In total BPS is adding about \$2.8M in PCEF's budget through these moves.

The remaining issue is we still haven't fully funded the Graffiti Program to the level it needs to be. The contract dollars are about \$100k per month, so they need about \$1.6M ongoing, but only have \$800k ongoing. We have staff covered but are hoping the Mayor will assist with the funding gap for contracting services to complete the work of the program.

Other bureaus in the C&ED Service Area:

- BDS is proposing fee increases and a request for GF funding.
- Prosper's and PHB's main concerns are as the city's urban renewal districts wind down, they are expecting the funding will come back to the bureaus... but they are nervous that won't happen since the budget is very tight this year.
- The reorg in BDS to integrate other permitting functions from other bureaus is ongoing work and has some funding gaps, and the transition needs further funding.

We are feeling good that BPS won't have to make additional changes or cuts to vacant positions, so we are in quite good shape compared to other bureaus.

Conversation about graffiti funding. Is it possible to highlight this in our letter? What about state funding?

Regarding Decision (Add) Package requests, we cannot submit them for General Fund except if it's related to City transition. An example is the funding for the Deputy City Administrator level, but that's at another (not bureau) level. Non-General Fund asks are allowed, which is why we can submit the PCEF Decision Package.

Equity Narrative

We originally thought each bureau would be submitting an equity narrative as in past years, but the most recent direction was that we have a service area-wide narrative to submit with the budget this year. Harmonie is working with counterparts with the other bureaus to gather the responses to the (new!) 5 questions:

1. How does your Service Area's requested budget advance the City Core Values of equity and anti-racism? If applicable, please articulate how it ties to strategies and/or outcomes in bureaus' Racial Equity Plans and/or other plans.
2. Regarding budget reductions, what strategies are proposed to mitigate impacts on systemically excluded and institutionally oppressed communities? If you are making budget cuts with any external equity-related impacts, how were those selected over other options?
3. How does your Service Area's requested budget support the empowerment of communities that have been systemically excluded and institutionally oppressed?
4. How has your Service Area used qualitative and quantitative data to track program access and service outcomes? Is the data disaggregated? Having disaggregated demographic data is important to determine the benefit or burden on communities. Please provide your data sources.
5. Please review the City of Portland's workforce demographic dashboard as provided by the Bureau of Human Resources. How does your Service Area's requested budget support employees in hiring, retention, and inclusion, particularly for Black people, Indigenous people, people of color, immigrants and refugees, people with disabilities, LGBTQIA2S+, and other people that have systemically excluded and institutionally oppressed? What are the demographics of your Service Area's workforce?

This year the Equity Narrative will just be submitted to the Office of Equity and Human Rights (not included in the full budget packet). In previous years OEHR has given a bit of scoring/grading for equity narratives, but we are not totally sure about the plan this year.

BAC Letter to Council

Conversation and edits to the letter, which will be submitted within the bureau's Requested Budget submittal.

Wrap-Up

Generally the BAC's work is done! We will send the finalized letter and links to previous meeting notes shortly. The only consideration for reconvening will be if the Mayor's Proposed Budget includes further cuts that the BAC may provide input on.